



S&H Form: (2/01)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

George ISHIKAWA, et al.

Serial No. 09/080,909

Group Art Unit: 3663

Confirmation No. 9908

Filed: May 19, 1998

Examiner: N. Moskowitz

For: OPTICAL WAVELENGTH MULTIPLEX TRANSMISSION METHOD AND OPTICAL DISPERSION COMPENSATION METHOD

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Bates
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DEC 23 2002
GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2002, and the Advisory Action mailed August 30, 2002.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 164-184 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 164-184 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ANTOS, USP 5,361,319

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 164, relates to a multi-stage optical amplifier including (a) a first amplifier amplifying a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical signal, (b) a dispersion compensator compensating dispersion given to the amplified WDM optical signal and outputting a dispersion compensated WDM optical signal, and (c) a second amplifier amplifying the dispersion compensated WDM optical signal.

Therefore, in the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 164, the first amplifier, the dispersion compensator and the second amplifier are not simply dispersed along the transmission line in an unrelated manner. Instead, these elements are included within a